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REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 19 and 27 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claims 20-26 and 28-34 have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims respectively to overcome the objection and not to overcome a rejection based on a statutory requirement.

Claims 20-26 and 28-34 remain pending in the application.

By way of this response, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the examiner telephone Leo J. Peters at (408)433-4578 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Response to Interview Summary

In the telephonic interview initiated by the examiner on 5 January 2004, the examiner asked for a clarification of the term "bottlenecks" recited in Claim 1. The undersigned explained that the term "bottlenecks" is defined in the specification on page 7, lines 16-18, as a node wherein the number of incoming edges does not equal the number of outgoing edges. There was no agreement respecting the disposition of Claim 1 or any other claim in the application.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and favorable reconsideration of Claims 20-26 and 28-34.

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No additional fee is believed due for this
amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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